

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 10393 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
USUN NEW YORK JULY 10.

QUOTE UNCLAS GENEVA 10393

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - GENERAL DEBATE -
AGENDA ITEM 3

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL DEBATE CONTINUED JULY 6 PM
WITH STATEMENTS BY FRANCE, UK, AND SWEDEN. EACH MADE
REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AS
THE BACKDROP FOR THE COMMENTS TO FOLLOW. NO NEW
INITIATIVES WERE PUT FORTH. ONE EXTENSIVE COMMENT
WORTH NOTING WAS MADE BY THE UK, THOUGH IT DOES NOT
APPEAR IN THE PRINTED TEXT; I.E., THE USSR WAS SINGLED
OUT AND TAKEN TO TASK BECAUSE REPAYMENTS ON FORMER
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO LDCS ARE NOW EXCEEDING CURRENT
SOVIET AID EXPENDITURE, THEREBY CREATING THE IRONIC
SITUATION OF NET AID RESOURCE FLOWS FROM DEVELOPING
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COUNTRIES TO USSR, A DEVELOPED COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESENTATIONS FOLLOW:

A. FRANCE

(1) THE FRENCH REP DESCRIBED TODAY'S ECONOMIC

SITUATION WORLD-WIDE WHICH, HE SAID, ECOSOC MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IN ITS DELIBERATIONS AND PROPOSALS. FRANCE CONTINUES TO WORK TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT FAVORABLE TO NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS. HE ALSO STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE CONTINUED THAT FRANCE IS READY TO PROVIDE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND, INTER ALIA, SUPPORTS THE COMMON FUND. RELATIVE TO RESOLUTION 32/174, FRANCE BELIEVES THAT HIGH LEVEL POLICY OFFICIALS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE COW, THAT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE, THAT THE PROGRAM FOR DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT BE A LABORIOUS LISTING OF ALL PROBLEMS, AND THAT PLENARY SHOULD BE A THINKING BODY FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS.

(2) ON RESTRUCTURING, FRANCE ENCOURAGES COHESION AMONG THE ACTIVITIES OF ECOSOC AND ASKS THAT THE WHOLE RESTRUCTURING PROCESS BE STEPPED UP.

(3) SPEAKING TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (BHN) WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, THE FRENCH REP CAUTIONED THAT BHN SHOULD NOT DETER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FROM EXTENDING ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS WHICH DO NOT APPEAR TO BE OVERT BHN PROJECTS, E.G., AID SHOULD NOT BE STEERED TOWARD AGRICULTURAL UNCLASSIFIED

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PROJECTS AT THE EXPENSE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

B. UNITED KINGDOM

(1) THE BRITISH REP TOLD ECOSOC HE BELIEVES THAT 1978 WILL BE REGARDED IN YEARS TO COME AS THE YEAR IN WHICH GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE BECAME PART OF THE DETAILED THINKING OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS THE WORLD OVER AS DISTINCT FROM THE MORE GENERALIZED PERCEPTIONS WHICH WE HAVE ALL HAD FOR SOME YEARS PAST. REFERRING TO THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, HE SAID WE MUST WORK VIGOROUSLY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE UNDERWAY. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE REFERRED TO THE COMMON FUND AND UNCTAD V. HE STATED THAT BRITAIN WILL ANNOUNCE SOON HOW IT WILL ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF INDEBTEDNESS AND ADJUSTMENT IN THE TERMS OF PAST BILATERAL OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO BRING THEM INTO LINE WITH CURRENT SOFTER TERMS. HE CALLED UPON IBRD, IDA AND REGIONAL BANKS TO DO THEIR PART IN INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

(2) ON RESTRUCTURING, HE STRESSED THE NEED TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ECOSOC IN COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT.

(3) HE STATED FURTHER THAT THOUGH RESOLUTIONS 32/174 AND 32/197 WERE NOT CONSIDERED TOGETHER BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE ALL AGREE THAT THEY ARE RELATED IN PARTICULAR BY THE COMMON OBJECTIVE THEY BOTH SEEK.

(4) HE ALSO MENTIONED THE SUBJECTS OF ENERGY AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE UK LOOKS FORWARD TO THE THIRD MEETING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON THE SCIENCE
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AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE. HE CONCLUDED BY ASSURING THE UK'S COMMITMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

C. SWEDEN

(1) THE SWEDISH DELEGATE ALSO PAINTED A BLEAK PICTURE OF TODAY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE STATED THAT "ONLY BY COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE IMMENSE PROBLEMS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN WE HOPE TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES".

(2) HE REFERRED TO WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POINTED OUT THAT THE ISSUES RAISED NEED CAREFUL ANALYSIS. "OUR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGING TASKS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WILL BE SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED UNLESS THE STRUCTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS ADEQUATELY ADAPTED TO THE NEED FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER. THIS IS WHY THE EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE UN SYSTEM ARE SO IMPORTANT. WE MUST LIVE UP TO OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND INFLUENCE BY IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING LAST FALL."

(3) WITH REFERENCE TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, THERE FOLLOWS AN EXCERPT FROM HIS STATEMENT:

"IN OUR VIEW THIS COMMITTEE WAS NOT ESTABLISHED SIMPLY TO CARRY OUT REVIEW OR ASSESSMENT EXERCISES IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. IT IS CLEAR - AND THIS FOLLOWS FROM THE MANDATE GIVEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - THAT THE PRIMARY TASK OF THE
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COMMITTEE IS TO DEEPEN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, TO PROVIDE A NEW IMPETUS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHERE THIS CAN BE DONE AND TO OUTLINE GUIDELINES FOR ACTION REGARDING THE KEY AREAS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. BY TAKING NEW INITIATIVES THE COMMITTEE CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION IN THIS RESPECT."

"THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CAN OF COURSE NOT BE THE FORUM FOR COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS COVERING THE WHOLE ARRAY OF ISSUES IN DIFFERENT POLICY AREAS. WHAT IT COULD BE, HOWEVER, IS TO NARROW DOWN BROAD TOPICS TO CORE ISSUES AND PROVIDE US WITH GUIDANCE FOR ACTION ON CERTAIN POINTS. THE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM WOULD THUS RECEIVE IMPETUS TO PURSUE THEIR SUBSTANTIVE AND TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING CRUCIAL ISSUES AND WORKING OUT GUIDELINES MIGHT OF COURSE REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO RETURN TO THE SAME SUBJECT AT MORE THAN ONE MEETING ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY CONSECUTIVELY."

(4) IN HIS COMMENTS ON THE NEED FOR AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HE REFERRED TO THE UPCOMING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE AS AN APPROPRIATE ILLUSTRATION AND SAID THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SEES IT AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN STRENGTHENING THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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